

State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913 PH (517) 373.7946 | FAX (517) 373.2678 www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 4, 2004

Sen. Stamas touts agenda that is 'Working Today For Michigan's Tomorrow'

CONTACT: Chad Wing

(517) 373-7946

Lansing – State Sen. Tony Stamas (R-Midland) said he is looking forward to working on the Senate Republican's 2004 agenda, titled "Working Today for Michigan's Tomorrow."

The bold legislative agenda focuses on creating jobs, strengthening families and continuing to improve the quality of Michigan schools while also bringing state spending in line with existing revenues.

"This is a bold and proactive caucus agenda, one based on Michigan's priorities," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "This agenda makes it clear that Senate Republicans are going to work for what's best for Michigan's families, not what's easiest for state government."

"We need to focus on the future," Stamas said. "Our plan centers on job growth and making Michigan competitive both nationally and globally."

The 2004 Senate Republican Caucus Agenda covers a broad range of topics and priorities, including:

- Improving Michigan's competitiveness, leading to a healthier economy and more job opportunities;
- Protecting families from health threats, criminal predators and unfair financial burdens;
- Educating youth by stretching education dollars, promoting reform and accountability and ensuring Michigan's children get the best education;
- Preserving Michigan's beauty through common sense land-use regulations,
 promoting recycling and limiting out-of-state trash; and

(More)

• Building a healthy Michigan – in terms of residents and the economy – by lowering healthcare costs while increasing accessibility, reducing state spending, and continuing Senate oversight of government activities.

"We have set high goals for this year but the people we represent deserve no less," Stamas said. "We are looking toward the future with high aspirations and working hard to reach them."

Stamas said one of the first initiatives undertaken this year involves the upcoming announcement of JOBS: Phase II. JOBS – Job Opportunities for Business Success – is an action plan to spur job growth and economic investment. JOBS II picks up where JOBS left off at the end of last year. The goal is to position Michigan as quickly as possible to take advantage of the national economic recovery.

"The best way to make sure that Michigan's economy improves is to make sure that every Michigan resident has an opportunity for employment," Stamas said.

###